

WASHINGTON (March 24) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) and Attorney General Troy King announced at a Capitol Hill news conference today that Alabama will challenge the constitutionality of the health care bill signed by President Obama.

Alabama is one of 13 states joining together to file suit against the new law's individual mandates and taxes and, in the words of Bachus, a "vast overreach" by the federal government on constitutional authority reserved to the states.

"From the start, this has been an abuse of the legislative process, an abuse of the Constitution, and certainly an abuse of the will of the majority of Americans who oppose a federal government takeover of their personal health care. My constitutional concerns were heightened by the outrageous backroom deals in the Senate bill and by the requirement that taxpayers fund abortions, which I and many people in Alabama find morally troubling. This lawsuit is about more than the health care debate. It is about preserving the individual rights of Americans that many generations have sacrificed to protect," Bachus said.

Bachus said the law's mandate that individuals buy insurance or face an I.R.S. tax penalty and its setting of the terms of that insurance, including payments for abortion services, overstep the constitutional authority of the federal government. Bachus said he has been working with Attorney General King since December to be prepared to challenge unconstitutional provisions in any final health care legislation.

"A fatally flawed bill like this is what happens when you do the public's business behind closed doors. Seeking redress in the court system, which at least is transparent, is not only appropriate but essential," Bachus said.

Congressman Bachus said he supports repealing the law and replacing it with commonsense, bipartisan solutions that would improve health care for all Americans.

**[Click here](#) to view a video excerpt from the news conference**

